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REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES, QUESTIONS RELATING TO REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS AND HUMANITARIAN QUESTIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 18 November 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 17 October 1994, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Osman Ertuğ, representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 99, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) İnal BATU
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 17 October 1994 from the representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to respond to the speech made by the Greek Cypriot representative at the meeting of the Third Committee held on 10 November 1994, under agenda item 99 entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions" as well as "the right of reply" that Mr. Shambos used, apparently in defence of his and his administration's title.

It must be said that the Greek Cypriot administration has a lot to be defensive about regarding its title as the so-called "Government of Cyprus", since this is really a usurped title acquired by armed force and political deception way back in 1963, when the conditions of the cold war permitted the Greek Cypriots to get away with such political robbery. The fact that the world has since tolerated the status quo in Cyprus, that is, the continued occupation of the seat of government by the Greek Cypriot usurper regime, does not make its claim to be the Government of the whole of the island any more legal, moral or legitimate, since the Turkish Cypriot people, an equal party in the bi-national body politic of Cyprus since 1960, has never given its consent to such claim.

However, the political cost of maintaining the status quo in Cyprus, by treating the Greek Cypriot side as if it were the Government of the whole island, has unfortunately been the perpetuation of the Cyprus conflict. It has aborted all efforts to find a just and viable solution and provided the other side with an arbitrary and unfair advantage on a global platform, which it has used as a launching pad for vicious political attacks and an expansive disinformation campaign against its former partner, the Turkish Cypriots, dividing the island even further. Mr. Shambos' interventions on the above occasion are yet another manifestation of this ill-conceived campaign, which continues unabated.

I will not go into detail in refuting the substance of the Greek Cypriot representative's original speech, since such baseless rhetoric has been repeatedly refuted on similar occasions before, notably in my letter addressed to Your Excellency dated 29 November 1993 (A/C.3/48/23 dated 1 December 1993). Suffice it to recall that, in that letter, irrefutable evidence is presented as to who invaded and occupied Cyprus between 1963 and 1974, creating 30,000 Turkish Cypriot refugees, untold devastation and suffering to the Turkish Cypriots and causing the present division.

I would, however, like to dwell on a recent new dimension of the Greek Cypriot side's habitual inclination to distort the truth, which the Greek Cypriot representative has again practised in his "right of reply", a right which I, as his counterpart, can only exercise in writing, owing to the usurpation and continued occupation of the seat of Cyprus at the United Nations by the Greek Cypriot side.

In a desperate attempt to justify its illegal monopolization of the title of "the Government of Cyprus", the Greek Cypriot side has been spreading the baseless propaganda that what happened in 1963 was that the Turkish Cypriots rebelled against the Government and withdrew from it "under instructions from Ankara" as part of its "partitionist plans".

The clearest evidence against such absurdity can be found in the international news media of the time, as well as in the relevant reports of the Secretary-General. One example from each should suffice to illustrate the point:

> "The Greek Cypriots claim that many of the Turks had been driven, under the threat of their own leaders, to form large enclaves which are intended to pave the way for a separate and federal state. It is difficult to find evidence in support of this allegation. Their motive seems to be more to protect themselves against sudden attack than a calculated attempt to form a separate state". (Extract from The Daily Telegraph of 19 February 1964)

> "During the afternoon, the Turkish Cypriot members visited the President of the House, who reiterated the substance of the points set forth in paragraph 8 above. He made it plain that, unless agreement was reached on these matters, he would not permit the Turkish Cypriot members to attend the House. Mr. Clerides also stated that the constitutional provisions concerning promulgation of the laws by the President and the Vice-President were no longer applicable. He subsequently stated that in his opinion the Turkish Cypriot members had no legal standing any more in the House." (Security Council document S/6569 dated 29 July 1965, para. 11)

It should be noted here that the person who is mentioned in this paragraph as the "House President" is the same Mr. Clerides who is now the leader of the Greek Cypriot community.

As for the claim that Ankara "had sent ships with arms to the Turkish Cypriots" (General Assembly press release GA/SHC/3251/Corr.1 dated 14 November 1994), I believe that the following extract from a book entitled Democracy at Gunpoint by Mr. Andreas Papandreou, the present Prime Minister of Greece, makes it crystal clear as to which country shipped soldiers, arms and ammunition to Cyprus in the 1960s in violation of the Zurich and London Agreements.

> "A clandestine operation then began on a huge scale of nightly shipments of arms and troops of volunteers who arrived in Cyprus in civilian clothes and then joined their Cypriot units. The process was not completed until the middle of the summer. No less than twenty thousand officers and men, fully equipped, were shipped to Cyprus". (Democracy at Gunpoint, p. 132)

By perpetrating all the above and publicly boasting about it, and then having the audacity to blame others for the very things it has done itself, the Greek Cypriot side has given a new meaning to the term "Byzantine". By such unbecoming behaviour, the Greek Cypriots only reveal how little regard they have for the truth and the international community, let alone their counterparts, the

Turkish Cypriots. I am sure that they will be judged accordingly by history and by the international community.

I should be grateful if the present letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 99, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus